

STATE OF MARYLAND

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR



ANTHONY G. BROWN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 15TH FLOOR
301 WEST PRESTON STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Israel C. "Izzy" Patoka, Executive Director

MAIN NUMBER

410-767-4159

FAX

410-333-5957

TTY

410-333-5181

Media Contact:

Tony White

Communications Director

Office: 410-767-6248

Cell: 410-926-8216

GOVERNOR LAUNCHES "MARYLAND: STRONGER TOGETHER" CAMPAIGN 2012

Marylanders encouraged to volunteer in their communities during the Holiday Season

BALTIMORE, MD (December 5, 2012) – Governor Martin O'Malley today, officially launched the second annual "Maryland: Stronger Together" campaign to encourage all Marylanders to give back and volunteer during the Holiday Season. The campaign will connect Marylanders with various opportunities to serve in their communities.

"Here in our State, our One Maryland, we consider ourselves pro-growth Americans. That includes growing in our compassion and understanding of one another. It means growing in our respect for the human dignity of each individual and growing in our appreciation of our interdependence upon other living species and systems of this one earth that we share," said Governor O'Malley. "That's why we are launching the second Maryland: Stronger Together campaign during this holiday season to help our neighbors in need."

As part of "Maryland: Stronger Together 2012," Governor O'Malley also unveiled a new interactive map that allows citizens to enter their home or work address to locate service opportunities in their communities. Through social media, Marylanders will be able to share their stories about volunteering using Twitter hashtag #MDTogether, and and post photos, videos and stories on the "Maryland Stronger Together" Facebook page.

"We are compelled during the holiday season, as we are everyday, to be mindful of those among us who face challenges and hardships that threaten their very survival," said Israel "Izzy" Patoka, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. "The Maryland Stronger Together campaign provides opportunities for us to come together from our diverse faiths, walks of life and backgrounds, to support our most vulnerable citizens."

The Governor is also encouraging all state employees to volunteer in their communities. During the period of December 3rd to December 31st, employees who choose to volunteer will have four hours of leave time available to participate in a service event. Employees must complete an "Employee Community Service" leave form. After the service is performed, the volunteer coordinator at the organization must sign the form to confirm the service was completed.

To learn more about the campaign, visit www.governor.maryland.gov/stronger.asp. To learn about more opportunities to volunteer, please visit <http://marylandvolunteercenters.org/>.